

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A cover for protecting Deglet Noor dates from birds, rain, insects, wind, and sunburn while on the palm, which comprises:

- (a) said cover being in the shape of a bag;
- (b) said bag being of ample size to enclose a large bunch;
- (c) said bag being composed of a flexible fabric which allows free circulation of air throughout the fruit cluster, yet excludes insects and birds, provides a windbreak, and partially shades said bunch;
- (d) said fabric made of water-repellant, UV resistant fiber; and
- (e) means for anchoring the top of said bag to the fruitstalk of said bunch.

2. The cover of claim 1 wherein said fabric is white, woven, open-mesh polyester having a weight of about 2.5 to 3.3 ounces per square yard.

3. The cover of claim 1 wherein said fabric has a cloth count of approximately 32 warps by 26 fills per square inch.

4. The cover of claim 1 wherein the L-seam of said bag is overedged with color-coded thread, so as to positively identify the owner of said cover.

5. A method for protecting Deglet Noor dates from birds, rain, insects, wind, and sunburn, while on the palm, which comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a cover for said dates, said cover being in the shape of a bag, said bag being of ample size to enclose a bunch and composed of a flexible fabric which allows free circulation of air throughout the fruit cluster, yet excludes insects and birds, provides a windbreak, and partially shades said bunch, said fabric being made of water-repellant, UV resistant fiber;
- (b) slipping said bag over the bunch;
- (c) wrapping the upper portion of said bag in a spiraling fashion to form concentric overlapping layers around the upper portion of said bunch, whereby a hood is formed, such that the upper portion of said bunch is shaded, and said fruit cluster is protected from rain; and
- (d) providing means for anchoring the top of said bag in a tightly closed condition around the bottom of the fruitstalk, so as to completely enclose said bunch.

6. A method for protecting Deglet Noor dates from birds, rain, insects, wind, and sunburn, while on the palm, which comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a cover for said dates, said cover being in the shape of a bag, said bag being of ample size to enclose a bunch and composed of a flexible fabric which allows free circulation of air throughout the fruit cluster, yet excludes insects and birds, provides a windbreak, and partially shades said bunch, said fabric being made of water-repellant, UV resistant fiber;
- (b) slipping said bag over the bunch;
- (c) positioning said bag such that the bottom of said bag is a few inches below the bottom of said bunch;
- (d) puckering the middle portion of said bag around the bottom of the fruitstalk;
- (e) providing means for anchoring approximately the middle of said bag in a tightly closed condition around the bottom of said fruitstalk, so as to completely enclose said bunch; and
- (f) folding down and over the top of said bunch the portion of said bag protruding above where said bag is anchored to said fruitstalk, so as to form an umbrella-like structure, such that the upper portion of said bunch is shaded, and said fruit cluster is protected from rain.

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